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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3202

May 7, 2014

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

CHAIRMAN, COUNTERTERRORISM AND INTELLIGENCE

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COMMUNICATIONS

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT & INVESTIGATIONS

The Honorable Thomas E. Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I would like to convey my strong support for the proposed rule recently released by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on "Wireless E911 Location Accuracy Requirements." It is vital that we give law enforcement and first responders the tools they need to keep our communities safe – and improving 9-1-1 location accuracy can help save lives, stop crimes, and improve response times. As you know, the majority of 9-1-1 calls come from wireless phones, and we must adapt to ensure Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) have the ability to accurately identify the location of a caller regardless of whether the caller is indoors, outdoors, and/or in a multi-level, multi-unit building.

As Chairman of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence and as Co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, ensuring the highest level of public safety is of utmost importance – and that requires keeping pace with technological advances and adapting to the fact that 9-1-1 calls are increasingly being made from wireless phones. The lack of location data for indoor cellular callers is a gap in public safety that must be remedied. This proposed rule requiring wireless carriers to collect and share indoor cellular location data with law enforcement makes important progress in remedying this shortfall. If implemented, the FCC's proposed rule would give first responders an important tool to assist them in locating 9-1-1 callers who, under the current system, oftentimes cannot be located or assisted in a timely manner (if at all) because they placed their 9-1-1 call on a cellular phone while indoors.

The Police Chiefs of four New York jurisdictions – Nassau County, Suffolk County, New York City and Buffalo – joined with Chiefs representing the 63 largest jurisdictions in the Nation in writing to your predecessor, Chairman Julius Genachowski, in May 2013 urging action in this

area and specifically asking the Commission “to consider regulations that require telecommunications providers to provide indoor cellular location data to law enforcement, just like caller data provided for wired phones.” New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly also weighed-in on this matter in a letter to Acting Chairwoman Clyburn, noting the importance of capturing location data for all call types “regardless of the user device location.”

The International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters and the National Volunteer Fire Council have passed a joint resolution emphasizing that “the deployment of effective indoor location technology is important for fire service, emergency medical services and public safety in general.”

Thank you for listening to the input of our first responders on this issue – they are on the front lines and need the best technology possible to ensure the security and safety of our citizens. I want to commend the FCC for its efforts to address problems with our antiquated 9-1-1 emergency response network. If you have any questions or have updates regarding this proposed rule, please contact Erin Ingraham of my staff at 202-225-7896.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter T. King', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

PETER T. KING

Member of Congress

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

May 29, 2014

Honorable Peter T. King
U.S. House of Representatives
339 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman King:

Thank you for your letter conveying your strong support for the recent proposed changes to the Commission's rules governing wireless E911 location accuracy.

I wholeheartedly agree that ensuring the highest level of public safety is of utmost importance. The Commission must preserve certain core values even as technology advances and consumers' use of that technology evolves. Nowhere is that imperative more clear than in the arena of public safety.

Our E911 location accuracy rules were written when wireless phones were a secondary means of communication, and were mostly used outside. As you so aptly note, however, today, more and more consumers use wireless phones as their primary means of communication, and 9-1-1-calls are increasingly being made from wireless phones while indoors. Our rules need to reflect these new realities. The proposals we sought comment on in February take the next steps to ensure that our rules continue to evolve along with technology and changing consumer habits.

Thank you again for your support and being a leading advocate on this critical issue. Your longstanding record of supporting law enforcement professionals and first responders is to be commended.

I look forward to working with you and your staff in the future on these and other important public safety issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Tom Wheeler", is positioned below the word "Sincerely".

Tom Wheeler